

TOP SECRET

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26 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 26 September 1969

DD/I briefed on the four categories which will govern the distribution of NIEs in the future. The Director concurred.

[REDACTED]

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Godfrey noted that General Ovando has taken over the Presidency of Bolivia.

Godfrey noted increased air activity over the Sinai region, [REDACTED]

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Godfrey alluded to the situation in Libya and noted that Libyan customs operations continue to be enforced.

*D/ONE reported that they have completed the chart he suggested in response to a possible requirement from Admiral Anderson, as noted in the Morning Meeting Minutes of 24 September. After some discussion the Director indicated that we should sit on it for the time being. Should Pat Coyne allude to this requirement or otherwise request data on the numbers of Soviet ICBMs as reflected in Estimates over recent years, the chart can be provided.

[REDACTED] noted that the Director's memorandum of 22 September has raised the question among USIB committee chairmen of whether its contents should become available to the committee members themselves. The Director decided that this is to be for internal consumption only and asked Parrott and [REDACTED] to take the necessary steps to accomplish this.

Carver and DD/S&T called attention to press and television coverage concerning the sale by the GVN of surplus arms (see Washington Post item by Warren Unna, "Saigon Selling Surplus 'M-16s'; Proxmire Asks Probe").

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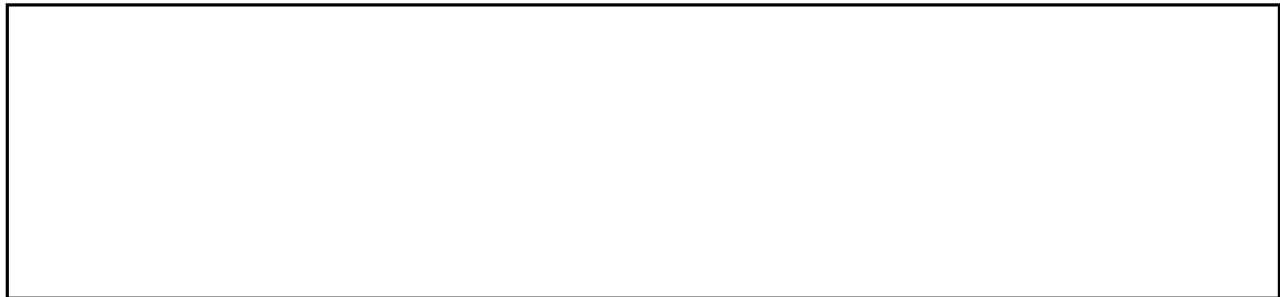
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Maury noted that Dave Brandwein will be briefing Representative George Miller, Chairman of the House Science and Astronautics Committee, this morning.

Maury briefed on the schedule for and problems connected with today's Senate budget hearing.

DD/S&T reported that the Soviet ships have returned home and that it is therefore unlikely the Soviets will undertake a manned lunar shot.

DDCI noted that he will be meeting with the Strategic Warning Working Group today.



fa. L. K. White

*Extracted and sent to action officer

Saigon Selling Surplus 'M-16s'; Proxmire Asks Probe

By Warren Unna
Washington Post Staff Writer

South Vietnam is declaring some of its weapons surplus and selling them to international arms dealers, the South Vietnamese Embassy confirmed yesterday.

The sales may include about 5,000 of the U.S. Army's prized M-16 rifles. Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) mentioned the M-16 in a Senate speech in which he demanded an "immediate investigation" by the Defense and State Departments.

A Pentagon spokesman said later that none of the 200,000 weapons put on sale were given to South Vietnam by the United States and that the M-16 listed in sales brochures was a Vietnamese "abbreviation" for the German Mannlicher rifle manufactured in 1916.

The arms sales were disclosed in an interview with Tran Khoa Hoc, third secretary for political affairs at the Vietnamese Embassy, by WTOP-TV.

Hoc declared that all the weapons put up for sale to arms dealers were sold as surplus "scrap" in order to provide his government with money to purchase new weapons.

Asked if arrangements had been worked out with the U.S. government beforehand, Hoc replied: "I don't think it would be necessary for an agreement between the two governments."

When later interviewed by The Washington Post, Hoc said the first brochure of arms to be sold had been furnished the embassy in April 1968. He identified the M-16 rifles on the list as U.S. manufactured. Another list, dated June 19, 1968 and, written in Vietnamese, included two mentions of an "M-16—one with '3550' in the number-available column, the other with '1899.'"

The list also included items in Vietnamese which the embassy political secretary translated as: "Auto rifles, 243; Browning Auto Rifles, 1899; Machine guns, 337; Grenade launchers, 182; Submachine guns, 3604; Rifles, 15,641; Browning auto rifles, 2041."

A Pentagon spokesman said the weapons are obsolete. If sold by the South Vietnamese, the spokesman added, these small arms must have their barrels punctured under an arrangement with the United States.

The spokesman did not explain why the United States would have such an arrangement with South Vietnam over non-U.S. weapons.

At the Vietnamese embassy, Hoc's superiors termed the whole matter a "mixup by junior officials" who saw only last year's document listing an "M-16" and not February's revised sales brochure which contained no such listing. Moreover, these embassy superiors declared, it was "impossible and incredible" for South Vietnam ever to have that many U.S. M-16 rifles at the time of the first brochure listing.

According to WTOP-TV reporters in Saigon, an inspection of the arms available for sale showed them ranging from "perfect" to "battlefield salvage" in condition.

In Washington, Hoc emphasized that only arms considered beyond economic repair were put up for sale.